Docket No.: 10122/005002
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Toshihiro Fukuda et al.

Application No.: 10/751,037                     Art Unit: 3611

Filed: December 31, 2003                        Examiner: D. G. Depumpo

For:  MOTOR-OPERATED POWER STEERING
      DEVICE

### REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

      In response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005, please reconsider this application in view of the following.

101085

DESCRIPTION

ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN POWER STEERING APPARATUS

5    Technical Field

The present invention relates to a vehicle power steering apparatus using an electric motor.

Background Arts

One known type of an electrically driven power steering
10    apparatus of a vehicle is ~~that~~ a ball screw nut into which a rack shaft of a rack-and-pinion steering apparatus is inserted, is rotated by an electric motor coaxial with the rack shaft, and a rotational output thereof is converted into a thrust in the longitudinal direction of the rack shaft
15    through a ball screw mechanism.

In this type of electrically driven power steering apparatus, the ball screw nut is so supported as to be rotatable with respect to a housing, which involves the use of bearings. These bearings are disposed at both side ends of the ball
20    screw nut and provided with presser members for preventing the bearings from coming off the ball screw nut.

The presser member is formed with a female thread meshing with a male thread formed on an outer periphery of the ball screw nut. The presser member is thus screwed to
25    the ball screw nut and thus prevents the bearing from coming off.

By the way, for example, in a general type of